



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 4, August 2011



A pair of mallards/© Henry J. Hipp

The Refuge's Draft CCP/EA is Available for Public Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (DCCP/EA) for the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is available for public review and comment. Between now and September 12, 2011, interested citizens, agencies, and organizations can review and comment on the DCCP/EA, which includes an analysis of management alternatives for the Refuge. (See options for sending us comments on page 4.)

After we receive public comments, we will finalize the CCP and publish it in the fall of 2011. The planning team will address your comments in the final CCP/EA.

The final CCP/EA will guide Refuge management for the next 15 years, and actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

We evaluated three draft alternatives in the DCCP/EA. Last year, we solicited public and agency comments on preliminary alternatives, and considered these comments in developing the draft alternatives and identifying Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. The DCCP/EA also describes management actions that are common to all alternatives, and actions that were considered but dismissed from further consideration.

The DCCP/EA was developed to provide reasonable, scientifically grounded guidance for improving the Refuge's wetlands, grasslands, riparian and floodplain forests, instream habitat, and coniferous forests for the long-term conservation of migratory birds, and native plants and animals.

Actions for protecting and sustaining the Refuge's natural resources, including habitats, migratory bird populations, and Federal or State-listed or rare species, are identified in the DCCP/EA. Priority public use programs—hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation—are also evaluated in the DCCP/EA.

Public Involvement to Date

We began public outreach by distributing Planning Update 1 to our partners and interested citizens in January 2009. On January 23, 2009, we held two open house meetings in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, to meet the public and obtain comments. The meetings were announced through local media outlets, on the Refuge's website, and in Planning Update 1. We published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register announcing our intent to prepare a CCP/EA and inviting public comments. The public scoping period ended on March 25, 2009, and all comments were considered and evaluated.

In June 2009, we distributed Planning Update 2, which included a summary of the comments we received, a planning schedule, and a description of the CCP's scope. In July 2010, we distributed Planning Update 3; in it we summarized our preliminary draft alternatives and requested public comments.

Now we are requesting your comments on the DCCP/EA. To obtain a copy and/or provide comments, see pages 4 and 12 for information.



Great horned owls/©Stan Bousson

Overview of the Draft CCP/EA Alternatives

Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative)

This alternative represents the “no-change” alternative required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This alternative is considered the base from which to compare the action alternatives. The Refuge would continue programs at current levels.



Great blue heron/Pen Waggener

Under Alternative 1, the Refuge would continue to manage wetlands, croplands, and grasslands for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, and elk. Two hundred acres of grain crops would be grown annually. Riparian and forest habitat would be maintained. Minimal management of instream habitat would occur.

Waterfowl hunting would continue on the 740-acre hunt area, 4 days per week, in accordance with the State's season. A 200-yard no-shooting area (91 acres) would continue along the auto tour route to provide for safety. Big game and upland game (grouse) hunting would

be allowed on the 295 acres of timber on the west side of Lions Den and Westside Roads. Bank fishing would be allowed on Myrtle Creek.

The 4.5-mile auto tour route would remain open year round to vehicles, walking, bicycling, jogging, dog walking (on leash only), cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and road conditions permit. Slightly over 5 miles of trails would be open to walking, jogging, and dog walking (on leash only) year-round, except for Island Pond Trail, which would be closed on hunt days during the waterfowl hunting season.

The Environmental Education Center would be available for teacher-led, and occasionally staff-led, programs. The Refuge would not pursue any additional land protection measures under the no action alternative.

Alternative 2 (Service Preferred) – Healthy Wildlife Habitats; Biodiversity Gains; Maximize Natural Food Production for Waterfowl and Decrease Emphasis on Crops; Balanced Public Uses that Reduce Disturbance to Sensitive Wildlife

Alternative 2, our preferred alternative, represents a balanced approach that reduces disturbance to wildlife while allowing compatible wildlife-dependent public uses. Under Alternative 2, wetland, cropland, and grassland management for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, and elk would continue. Repairs and improvements to the existing water management infrastructure would take place to increase the Refuge's ability to manage wetlands. Increased emphasis would be placed on moist soil management. Crop acreage could decrease to 125 acres with an increase in acreage of moist soil wetlands. Existing riparian habitat would be maintained and increased restoration of native riparian and grassland habitats would occur.

Wildfires would still be suppressed and forests would be thinned to maintain an open understory and reduce ladder fuels that would allow fire to carry from the forest understory into the canopy. The Refuge would work with partners to examine the feasibility of restoring degraded stream habitats for the benefit of native fish. The Refuge would initiate a land protection plan study to analyze alternatives for possible Refuge boundary expansion to include 120 acres of floodplain owned by the Idaho Department of Lands.

Waterfowl hunting would be permitted 4 days per week, in accordance with the State's season. The waterfowl hunt area would be reduced to 605 acres due to increasing the size of the 200-yard

non-shooting area (retrieving zone) to include the area along the Deep Creek Trail (225 acres) to provide for safety.

An additional ADA-accessible blind would be constructed on the north hunt unit. South Pond would be open to hunting from the ADA blind only. The location of fixed blinds and free roam hunt areas would be adjusted as necessary based on habitat quality, waterfowl use of wetlands, and data from hunter surveys. Overall, waterfowl hunting opportunities would be the same as under current management.

Big game, upland game (grouse only), and turkey hunting would be allowed west of Lions Den Road (173 acres). Big game and upland game hunting would be discontinued west of Westside Road (122 acres) due to safety considerations. A special permit or depredation hunt for white-

tailed deer and elk would be developed, in consultation with IDFG, as needed, to reduce damage to riparian vegetation on the Refuge flats. Overall, opportunities for big game and upland game hunting would increase compared to current management. Bank fishing would be allowed on Myrtle Creek.

The 4.5-mile auto tour route would remain open year-round to vehicles, walking, bicycling, jogging, dog walking (on leash only), cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and road conditions permit. Wildlife observation, photography, walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing would be allowed on four trails (3.7 miles total) year-round, weather permitting. The Island Pond Trail would be closed to reduce disturbance to waterfowl. Environmental education programs would increase.



Northern harrier on the refuge/Stephen A. Wolfe

Alternative 3 – Healthy Wildlife Habitats; Biodiversity Gains; Increased Emphasis on Natural Food Production for Waterfowl and Decreased Emphasis on Crops; Increased Public Use Opportunities

Under Alternative 3, actions to protect, maintain, and restore habitat for priority species are the same as under Alternative 2, except that fewer areas would be planted to crops since more acres are managed as moist soil wetlands. The acreage in crops and moist soil would be intermediate between Alternatives 1 and 2.

Waterfowl, big game, upland game, and turkey hunting would be the same as in Alternative 2. As in

Alternative 2, special permit or depredation hunts for white-tailed deer and elk on the Refuge flats would be developed to reduce damage to riparian vegetation. Catch-and-release fishing would be allowed from the banks of Myrtle Creek using single, barbless, non-baited hooks only.

The 4.5-mile auto tour route would remain open year-round to vehicles, walking, bicycling, jogging, dog walking (on leash

only), cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and road conditions permit. Wildlife observation, photography, walking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing would be allowed on five trails (4.8 miles total) year round, weather permitting. The Island Pond Trail would be closed, but the 1.1-mile Kootenai River Trail would be reopened. Environmental education programs would increase.

Your Comments are Important!

We welcome your comments on the Draft CCP/EA. You may submit comments, requests for more information, or requests for copies by any of the following methods. In order for your comments to be considered, we need to receive them by September 12, 2011.

Email: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov. Include “Kootenai NWR CCP” in the subject line.

Fax: Attn: Dianna Ellis, Refuge Manager, 208-267-5570.

U.S. Mail: Dianna Ellis, Refuge Manager, Kootenai NWR, 287 Westside Road, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805.

Website: www.fws.gov/kootenai/refuge_planning.html; select “Contact Us.”

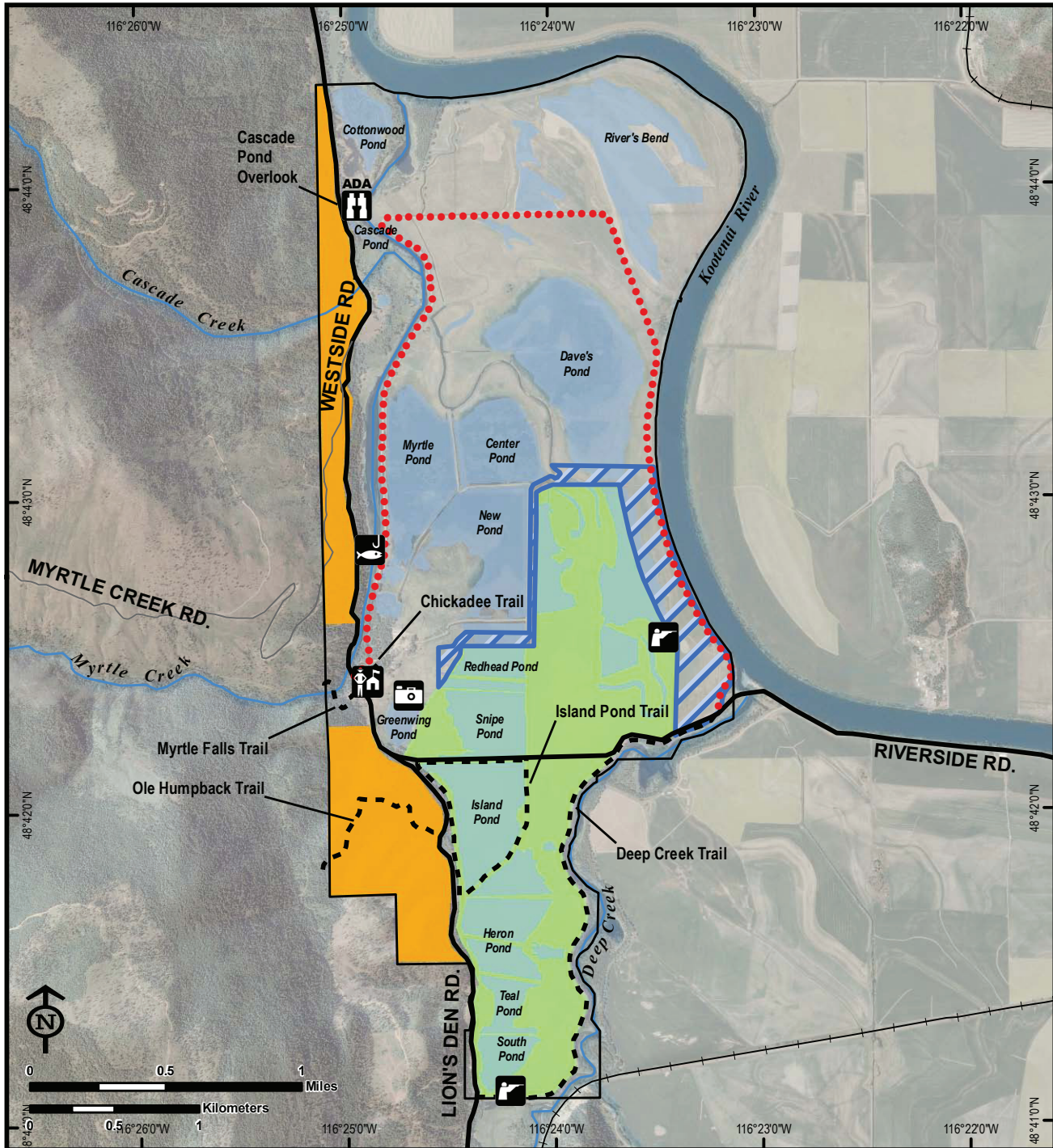
In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup: Call 208-267-3888 to make an appointment (necessary for viewing/pickup only) during regular business hours at the above address.



Canada goose with goslings/©Stan Bousson

Alternative 1

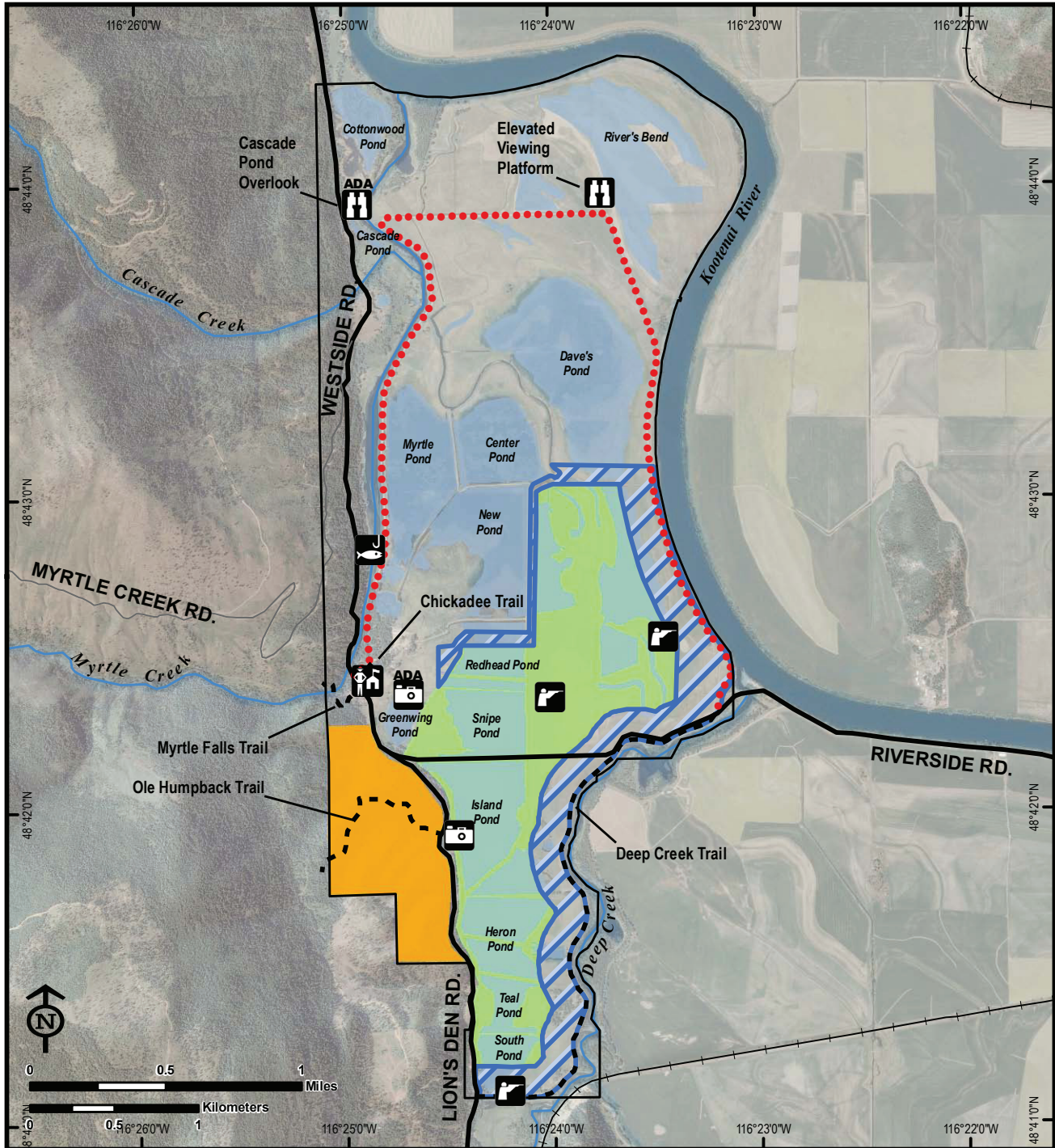
Current Management Public Use



- | | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Refuge Headquarters | Wildlife Viewing | Bank Fishing Only |
| Refuge Boundary | Photo Blind | ADA Accessible Hunting Blind |
| Ponds | Refuge Trails
walking, x-c skiing, snowshoeing,
jogging, & leashed-dog walking | Retrieving Zone |
| County Roads | Auto Tour Route
same as trails but includes bicycling | Grouse & Big Game Hunting |
| Other Roads | | Waterfowl Hunting (Tu, Th, Sat, Sun) |

Alternative 2

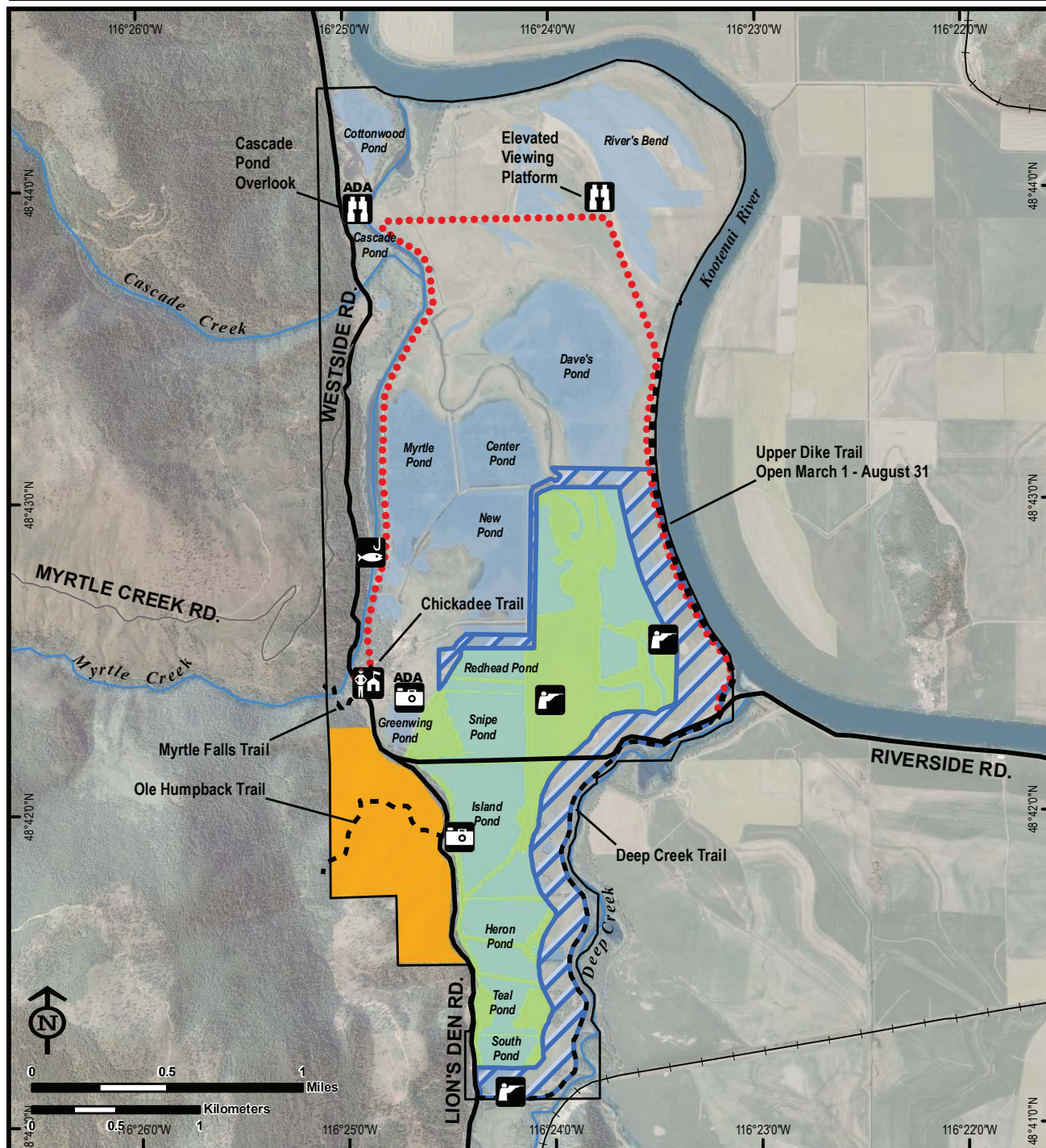
(Preferred Alternative) Future Management Public Use



- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Refuge Headquarters | Wildlife Viewing | Bank Fishing Only |
| Refuge Boundary | Photo Blind | ADA Accessible Hunting Blind |
| Ponds | Refuge Trails
walking, x-c skiing, & snowshoeing | Retrieving Zone |
| County Roads | Auto Tour Route
same as trails but includes bicycling,
jogging, & leashed dog walking | Turkey, Grouse, & Big Game Hunting |
| Other Roads | | Waterfowl Hunting (Tu, Th, Sat, Sun) |

Alternative 3

Future Management Public Use



Refuge Headquarters



Refuge Boundary



Ponds



County Roads



Other Roads



Wildlife Viewing



Photo Blind

Refuge Trails
walking, x-c skiing, & snowshoeingAuto Tour Route
same as trails but includes bicycling,
jogging, & leashed dog walkingCatch & Release Fishing Only
w/ single, barbless, non-baited hooks

ADA Accessible Hunting Blind



Retrieving Zone



Turkey, Grouse, & Big Game Hunting



Waterfowl Hunting (Tu, Th, Sat, Sun)

Theme/Issue	Alternative 1 (No Action) (Continue Current Management)	Alternative 2 (Service's Preferred Alternative)	Alternative 3
Grassland and Cropland			
Grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 560 acres of managed grasslands (primarily non-native pasture grasses); management directed towards producing big game forage, controlling noxious weeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 435-460 acres of managed grasslands and restored native grasslands, including 50-75 acres of restored native upland grassland or wet meadow. Restore 100-125 acres of managed grasslands to non-grassland habitat types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 385- 410 acres of managed grasslands and restored native grasslands, including 50-75 acres of restored native upland grassland or wet meadow. Restore 150-175 acres of managed grasslands to non-grassland habitat types.
Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 200 acres of small grains and green browse annually for migratory waterfowl in upland areas. (420 acres of grassland/upland available as cropland; approximately half of acreage in crops.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 125-200 acres of small grains and green browse annually for migratory waterfowl in upland areas. Restore 75-100 acres of cropland to native upland grassland or wet meadow once moist soil habitat is established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 150-200 acres of small grains and green browse annually for migratory waterfowl in upland areas. Restore 25-50 acres of cropland to native upland grassland or wet meadow once moist soil habitat is established.
Freshwater Aquatic Habitats			
Moist Soil Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 10-20 acres of moist soil habitat annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 75-100 acres of moist soil habitat annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 25-50 acres of moist soil habitat annually.
Wetlands Seasonally Managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 417-427 acres of managed seasonal wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 337-362 acres of managed seasonal wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 387-412 acres of managed seasonal wetlands.
Wetlands Semi-permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 450 acres of semi-permanent wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 355-450 acres of semi-permanent wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 355-450 acres of semi-permanent wetlands.
Wetlands-Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 295 acres of permanent wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 229-283 acres of permanent wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 229-283 acres of permanent wetlands.
Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify need to increase pumping capacity from Kootenai River, Deep Creek, and Myrtle Creek. Replace Deep Creek Pump with higher efficiency pump. Replace Myrtle Creek Pump 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and upgrade wetland management infrastructure to meet wetland management objectives and protect native fish. Replace Myrtle Creek Pump. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and upgrade wetland management infrastructure to meet wetland management objectives and protect native fish. Replace Myrtle Creek Pump.
Forest Habitat			
Moist Mixed Coniferous Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 267 acres of existing late-successional mixed moist coniferous forest; conduct minimal suppression). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 267 acres of existing late-successional mixed moist coniferous forest; conduct minimal management activity (e.g., fire suppression). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 267 acres of existing late-successional mixed moist coniferous forest; conduct minimal management activity (e.g., fire suppression).
Late Seral Dry Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 50 acres of late-seral dry coniferous forest; conduct minimal management activity (e.g., fire suppression). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 50 acres of existing late-seral dry coniferous forest. Hand thin to maintain open understory and remove ladder fuels (in lieu of prescribed fire). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 50 acres of existing late-seral dry coniferous forest. Hand thin to maintain open understory and remove ladder fuels (in lieu of prescribed fire).
Mixed Moist Deciduous Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 10 acres of existing mixed moist deciduous forest; conduct minimal management (e.g., fire suppression). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 10 acres of existing mixed moist deciduous forest. Reduce conifer encroachment, increase aspen/cottonwood recruitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 10 acres of existing mixed moist deciduous forest. Reduce conifer encroachment, increase aspen/cottonwood recruitment.
Riparian Habitat			
Mid-late Successional Alluvial Riparian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 104 acres of existing mid-late successional riparian woodland; allow opportunistic recruitment of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, maintain, and restore 104 acres of existing mid-late successional riparian woodland. Restore up to 15-20 acres of riparian habitat over lifetime of CCP. Manage suitable areas to increase recruitment of bottomland hardwoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, maintain, and restore 104 acres of existing mid-late successional riparian woodland. Restore up to 15-20 acres of riparian habitat over lifetime of CCP. Manage suitable areas to increase recruitment of bottomland hardwoods.

Theme/Issue	Alternative 1 (No Action) (Continue Current Management)	Alternative 2 (Service's Preferred Alternative)	Alternative 3
woodland	bottomland hardwood trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce damage to riparian habitat by developing special permit or depredation hunts for white-tailed deer and elk, as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce damage to riparian habitat by developing special permit or depredation hunts for white-tailed deer and elk, as appropriate.
Riparian Scrub-Shrub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 108 acres of existing riparian scrub/shrub habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 108 acres of riparian scrub/shrub habitat. Restore 20-30 acres of riparian shrub in managed grasslands over lifetime of CCP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain 108 acres of riparian scrub/shrub habitat. Restore 20-30 acres of riparian shrub in managed grasslands over lifetime of CCP.
Instream Habitat and Fisheries Restoration			
Upper Myrtle Creek, Cascade Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal management activity on Upper Myrtle Creek (.34 mile within Refuge boundary), Cascade Creek (.51 mile within Refuge boundary). <u>Note:</u> Includes only stream miles within the Refuge. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and maintain the upper .34 mile of Myrtle Creek, and upper Cascade Creek (.19 mile) to provide habitat for bull trout and native redband rainbow trout. Work with USFS, County to reduce impacts of roads to instream habitat.
Lower Myrtle Creek, Lower Cascade Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal management activity on lower Myrtle Creek (2.17 miles within Refuge boundary); major constraints to restoration exist; backwaters of Kootenai River prevent riparian restoration. Minimal management activity on lower Cascade Creek (approx. .32 mile). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to examine feasibility of, and develop strategies for, restoration; conduct restoration activities where feasible. Conduct feasibility study for restoring sinuosity to lower Myrtle Creek. Conduct feasibility study to restore the lower reach (.32 miles) of Cascade Creek.
Deep Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal management activity; major constraints to restoration exist (dikes, Kootenai River backwaters, upstream activities). Work with partners and neighboring landowners to improve water quality. <u>Note:</u> Most of Deep Creek (20.8 miles) lies outside Refuge boundary; Refuge owns only west bank of the lower 2.1 miles, and both banks of 0.3 miles. 		
Native Fish (bull trout, kokanee, Kootenai River white sturgeon, burbot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support fisheries restoration for kokanee (egg planting), Kootenai River white sturgeon (spawning habitat), and burbot. (USFWS, IDFG, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.) 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <p>Collaborate with USFWS Fisheries Office on aquatic resource inventory and habitat surveys.</p>	
Recreation			
Auto Tour Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain <u>4.5 mile</u> auto tour route in its current configuration. Open to vehicles, walking, bicycling, and dog walking when weather/road conditions permit, including hunt days. Route not plowed; passable to passenger vehicles March-early December. Open to cross-country skiing/snowshoeing in winter. 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide alternate methods of interpretation on tour route, e.g., radio announcing system, CD, and/or interpretive brochure. Monitor disturbance to breeding waterfowl and waterbirds caused by bicycle and foot traffic, limit these uses (e.g., by permit or time of day) if disturbance issues warrant. Provide up to 2 additional pullouts/passing areas. Develop elevated viewing platform and provide interpretive signs. Short leashes (6 feet or less) required for dogs. 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide alternate methods of interpretation on tour route, e.g., radio announcing system, CD, and/or interpretive brochure. Monitor disturbance to breeding waterfowl and waterbirds caused by bicycle and foot traffic, limit these uses (e.g., by permit or time of day) if disturbance issues warrant. Provide up to 2 additional pullouts/passing areas. Develop elevated viewing platform and provide interpretive signs. Short leashes (6 feet or less) required for dogs.
Waterfowl Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>740 acres</u> (28% of Refuge and 46% of waterfowl habitat) open to waterfowl hunting in accordance with State seasons and regulations on Tues, Thurs, Sat, and Sun, all day (dawn to dusk). Both free roam and spaced blinds occur in the same area. No fees, permits, or reservations required; first-come, first served. <u>91 acre</u> non-shooting area/retrieval zone (200 yards wide) along east side of Auto 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>605 acres</u> open to waterfowl hunting due to increasing the size of the non-shooting area/retrieval zone. Increase the size of the non-shooting area /retrieval zone to 226 acres, including the area along both the Auto Tour Route and the Deep Creek Trail to provide for safety. Both free roam and spaced blinds occur in the same area unless hunt program monitoring demonstrates that conflicts exist. Adjust blind types and locations based on habitat use by waterfowl and hunter survey data. Establish one additional ADA blind on north hunt unit. South Pond open to hunting from blind only (ADA blind). 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>605 acres</u> open to waterfowl hunting due to increasing the size of the non-shooting area/retrieval zone. Increase the size of the non-shooting area /retrieval zone to 226 acres, including the area along both the Auto Tour Route and the Deep Creek Trail to provide for safety. Both free roam and spaced blinds occur in the same area unless hunt program monitoring demonstrates that conflicts exist. Adjust blind types and locations based on habitat use by waterfowl and hunter survey data. Establish one additional ADA blind on north hunt unit. South Pond open to hunting from blind only (ADA blind).

Theme/Issue	Alternative 1 (No Action) (Continue Current Management)	Alternative 2 (Service's Preferred Alternative)	Alternative 3
	Tour Route.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Hunter Hotline for updated waterfowl hunter information. Increase FWS/law enforcement presence during hunt season. Provide annual hunting clinics. 	
Wildlife Observation and Photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for self-guided wildlife observation and photography on Auto Tour Route, trails, Cascade Pond Overlook, orientation kiosk at HQ, and pullouts on county road. Provide one photography blind. 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide up to 2 photography blinds. Develop photography programs and contests. 	
Trails* <i>*Auto Tour Route not included in trail mileage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 5.2 miles of trails (Deep Creek, Island Pond, Ole Humpback, Myrtle Falls, Chickadee). Trails open year-round except Island Pond Trail (closed to non-consumptive users during hunt season). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 3.7 miles of trails (Deep Creek, Ole Humpback, Myrtle Falls, Chickadee). Close Island Pond Trail to reduce impacts to waterfowl. MOU with USFS to maintain/sign Myrtle Falls Trail, improve safety at Myrtle Falls overlook on USFS property. Trails open year-round. <p><i>As in Alt 2, except:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 4.8 miles of trails (Deep Creek, Kootenai River, Ole Humpback, Myrtle Falls, Chickadee). Repair, sign, and re-open 1.1-mile Kootenai River (Upper Dike) Trail. 	
Big Game Hunting And Upland Game Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking, snowshoeing, X-C skiing, jogging, and leashed dog walking allowed on all trails. 295 acres of Refuge open to big game (mule and white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear, mountain lion) and upland game (grouse) hunting; hunt area is west of Westside Road and Lions Den Road; does not overlap with waterfowl hunt area. No big game or upland game hunting allowed on Refuge flats (area east of Westside and Lions Den Roads) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking, snowshoeing, and X-C skiing only on trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinue big game and upland game (grouse) hunting west of Westside Road. Continue to allow big game (mule and white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear, mountain lion) and upland game (grouse) hunting west of Lions Den Road (173 acres). Allow turkey hunting west of Lions Den Road. Develop special permit or depredation hunt for white-tailed deer and elk on Refuge flats as needed to reduce damage to riparian vegetation.
Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing allowed only in Myrtle Creek; bank fishing only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>As in Current Management</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch-and-release fishing allowed from banks of Myrtle Creek using a single, barbless, non-baited hook.
Environmental Education (EE) and Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide occasional staff-led interpretive programs. Continue self-serve use of EE facility by school groups; EE programs teacher-led; no teacher training or Refuge curriculum. Provide interpretive exhibits at headquarters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire seasonal/temp staff to conduct public outreach; develop interpretive program, deliver volunteer training (interpretive programs conducted by trained volunteers). Hire term or temp staff to develop Refuge-specific EE curriculum, deliver teacher training (EE programs conducted by teachers who have received training and use Refuge specific curricula). Develop self-serve I&E modules/activities for Refuge visitors. 	
Welcome and Orient Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information kiosks and Refuge brochures at Refuge entrance and headquarters. Receptionist available weekdays only. 	<p><i>As in Current Management, but also:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit/train volunteers to provide visitor information during times of peak demand (hunt season, spring). Develop website with "virtual tour" of Refuge. 	

Theme/Issue	Alternative 1 (No Action) (Continue Current Management)	Alternative 2 (Service's Preferred Alternative)	Alternative 3
Friends Group/Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire seasonal AmeriCorps staff to build Friends Group and volunteer workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire term, seasonal park ranger, or use long-term volunteer to build volunteer workforce. Conduct member drive to recruit Friends Group members. Develop needs list to guide Friends Group efforts. 	
Other Refuge Management Actions			
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No monitoring conducted except for anecdotal observations of disturbance to wildlife caused by public use. No boundary expansion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor disturbance to wildlife caused by public uses on the Auto Tour Route and trails and waterfowl hunting. Monitor angling activities/use on Myrtle Creek and potential impacts to bull trout. Initiate a land protection plan study to analyze alternatives for possible Refuge boundary expansion to include 120 acres of Deep Creek floodplain immediately south of the Refuge that is under current ownership of Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL). 	
Refuge Expansion			

Planning Schedule

Planning Step

Target Date

Planning Update 1 (issued)	January 2009
Public Meetings (completed)	January 2009
Planning Update 2 (issued)	June 2009
Planning Update 3 (issued)	July 2010
Planning Update 4 (issued)	August 2011
Draft CCP/EA Public Comment Period August 12-September 12, 2011	
Final CCP	Fall 2011

Schedule dates are tentative and subject to change as the planning process progresses.



Moose with calf; pair of wood ducks; porcupine/Stan Bousson



To learn more visit our Refuge Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/kootenai/>

To learn more about refuge planning, visit our Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/>

Mailing Information:

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
287 Westside Road
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805



Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
287 Westside Road
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

In this issue:

Review and comment
on summaries of the
Kootenai
National Wildlife
Refuge's Draft
CCP/EA alternatives.
Comments are due by
September 12, 2011.

12

Copies of the Draft Plan are available as follows:

Review or download the Draft Plan from the following Internet site:
http://www.fws.gov/kootenai/refuge_planning.html

Printed copies or copies on CD-ROM may be obtained by contacting:

Dianna Ellis, Refuge Manager
Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge
287 Westside Road
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
Phone: (208) 267-3888

A printed copy of the Draft Plan is available at each of the following libraries:

Boundary County Library 6370 Kootenai St. Bonners Ferry, ID 83805	Sandpoint Library 1407 Cedar St. Sandpoint, ID 83864	Coeur d'Alene Public Library 702 E. Front Ave. Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
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Your Refuge Leaner, Greener and Reaching Out

To promote the availability of the Draft CCP/EA to a wider audience, and to reduce our use of paper, we are emphasizing electronic distribution of the document. You can view and download the Draft CCP/EA on the internet at: http://www.fws.gov/kootenai/refuge_planning.html

Limited printed and CD-ROM copies are available. Please use your library or contact us (address and phone above) if you need to obtain a CD or printed copy.

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